

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



October , 2000

REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER NO. 00- 31

To County Refugee Coordinators

Please be advised that the next Refugee Coordinators meeting is scheduled as follows

Date: Thursday, October 26, 2000
Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Location California Department of Social Services
8745 Folsom Blvd., #100
Sacramento, CA 95826

For your convenience, a copy of the draft minutes for the last meeting are enclosed for your review. Also enclosed is a map with directions from the Sacramento International Airport, courtesy of the Yahoo! Internet site.

If you have any suggestions for the agenda of the upcoming October meeting, please address, e-mail or fax them to:

Mr. Stephen Saucedo
California Department of Social Services
Refugee Programs Branch
744 P Street, MS 6-646
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: (916) 654-7187
ssaucedo@dss.ca.gov

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mr. Saucedo at (916) 654-5594

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Barton".

Robert A. Barton, Chief
Refuge Programs Branch

Enclosure

COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS' MEETING
August 28, 2000

Robert Barton RPB (916) 654-1115	Sergey Terehuen Yolo County (916) 375-6319	Phyllis Iwasaki RPB (916) 654-2387
Lavinia Limon ORR (202) 401-9246	Yuliya Balabanova Yolo County (916) 375-6255	Laura Hardcastle DHS (916) 323-1164
Gayle Smith ORR (202) 205-3590	Nancy Schou Yolo County (916) 669-2300	Betts Smith RPB (916) 654-0495
Kathy Do ORR (202) 401-4579	Janis Bellinger San Diego County (619) 338-2878	Sherry Hanna CA Dept. of Aging (916) 323-1120
John Tran Alameda County (510) 596-0416	Leonilla Strelkoff Los Angeles County (213) 738-3986	Daniel Crawford RPB (916) 654-5964
Sambo Ly Alameda County (510) 891-5700	Peter Vang Fresno County (559) 453-6692	Stephen Saucedo RPB (916) 654-5594
Janet Tompkins Contra Costa County (510) 412-3237	Christine Balbos Fresno County (559) 453-6543	Lenore Schmidt RPB (916) 654-2805
Dolores Mejia Orange County (714) 541-7874	Pao Ly Fresno County (559) 453-6092	Ophelia Farrell RPB (916) 654-8980
Long Thai Nguyen Sacramento County (916) 263-3852	Kim Chi Trieu Santa Clara County (408) 441-5659	Jamie McCload REFUGEEWorks (408) 453-3536
An Tran San Joaquin County (209) 468-2061	Angelica Saragosa Yolo County (916) 375-6253	Jo Ann Soker REFUGEEWorks (303) 839-1240
Karen Hart San Francisco (415) 431-8700	Janet Sandlin RPB (916) 654-1246	

Refugee Information Exchange Conference
County Coordinators Meeting – August 28, 2000

Bob Barton opened the meeting with introductions of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) guests, Lavinia Limon, Gayle Smith and Kathy Do and Joyce Hull representing the state of Georgia.

Bob confirmed the redirection of \$400,000 State Administrative funds for allocation to counties and the completion of the \$500,000 contract to Jane Bloom for Technical Assistance.

Jane Bloom spoke briefly about the proposed Technical Assistance contract activities. Presently there are 35 Mutual Assistance Associations (MAAs) in eleven counties identified for assistance; half way through the contract she will re-assess and determine if more will be added. The MAAs were either self-selected or recommended by the county. Twenty needs assessments have been completed and site visits will occur within the next two to three months.

Lavinia Limon provided information regarding three sets of refugees impacting the program:

Asylees are eligible for refugee assistance and services beginning on the date that they are granted asylum instead of their date of entry into the United States. It seems that the ethnicity of most asylees are aligned with refugees (asylees are also from China, Sri Lanka and India). ORR also pays foster care for unaccompanied minor asylees.

- 2 "Lost Boys" are approximately 3,400 Sudanese age 18 to 20 and minors who have fled their homes and moved as a group through various refugee camps in Africa. They have formed support units within their group (referred to as "Pods") and desire education.
- 3 Special Medical Program refugees are refugees who are HIV positive and granted waivers by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to enter the United States. Previously, refugees needed evidence that any medical treatment would not be at government expense; however, INS dropped this condition for entry. The majority of Special Medical Program refugees are from Africa, but some are also from the former Soviet Union and Asia. ORR has funded six cities for these refugees: San Diego, Chicago, New York, Boston, San Francisco, and Minneapolis. San Diego is not accepting cases, as they are not ready to do so. More sites are to be funded: Los Angeles, Seattle and Dallas.

Bob then asked for Counties to report their accomplishment:

Santa Clara, Kim Chi Trieu, reported about the county's Women's Program, which serves 150 women with part-time school and training activities. She also noted the county has had a very successful Job Fair with over 1,000 refugees and 32 agencies/companies participating.

San Joaquin, An Tran indicated that they were using the \$45,000 set-aside funds for interpreters.

Long Nguyen of Sacramento County reported on recruitment efforts to increase the number of referrals; clients can choose which agency will serve them; the county has WIA/WTW one-stop services.

Pao Ly indicated that Fresno County has \$1 million in CalWORKs funding to serve refugees; special funding is used to teach refugees to use mainstream services; the county gave the providers computers so all use the same system; the county allows all providers to attend county training.

Leonilla Strelkoff indicated that Los Angeles providers might focus on first time employment as well as moving clients from part-time employment to fulltime employment; they are working on the RFP that will cover the next two years; they are working collaboratively to link refugees with programs.

Yolo County represented by Nancy Schou reported about a collaborative effort they are promoting for on-the-job training for various construction apprenticeships and medical interpretation. Also, it was noted that the county coordinator has been appointed to the local WIA board.

San Diego County represented by Janis Bellinger indicated that they had recently completed an update of their three-year plan to assist refugees to self-sufficiency. She also stated that set-aside funds were exclusively being targeted to provide transportation services for refugees.

Janet Tompkins of Contra Costa County stated the county was phasing-out their Bosnian medical interpreter because the county would no longer receive RESS set-aside funds. Ms. Tompkins indicated that the county thought the project had been a great benefit but the county was not able to continue to fund it themselves.

Karen Hart of San Francisco County stated that the county was using their \$21,000 of set-aside funds to translate Women Infants and Children (WIC) printed materials into Bosnian. Ms. Hart also indicated that refugee enrollment problems were directly related to cost of housing in San Francisco. She stated there were a little over 200 refugees enrolled in their programs.

Dolores Mejia from Orange County reported that the county was using their RESS set-aside funds for "outreach." Specifically, the outreach efforts were to try and sign-up refugees for the WIC program. The county was also developing a resource directory

they are planning to distribute to all seniors. Lastly, the county is also excited about trying to teach refugees how to telecommunicate for their jobs.

John Tran representing Alameda County stated they were using their RESS set-aside funds for referral services. The refugee coordinator stated the county is making great efforts to encourage service providers and community based organizations (CBOs) to compete for CalWORKs contracts and WIA grant projects. He stated this was being done because of the loss of TA funds to the county and the decrease in the flow of refugees to the county. Another effort the county was involved in was The Language Access Project.

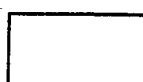
Bob Barton closed the meeting and thanked everyone for participating.

Following the meeting closure Lavinia Limon requested to make one last statement. Ms Limon wanted to reiterate that RESS set-aside funds are directed to help working refugees receive needed services. She also stated that these refugees under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 were entitled to interpreters and document translations in their own language.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 26, 2000.



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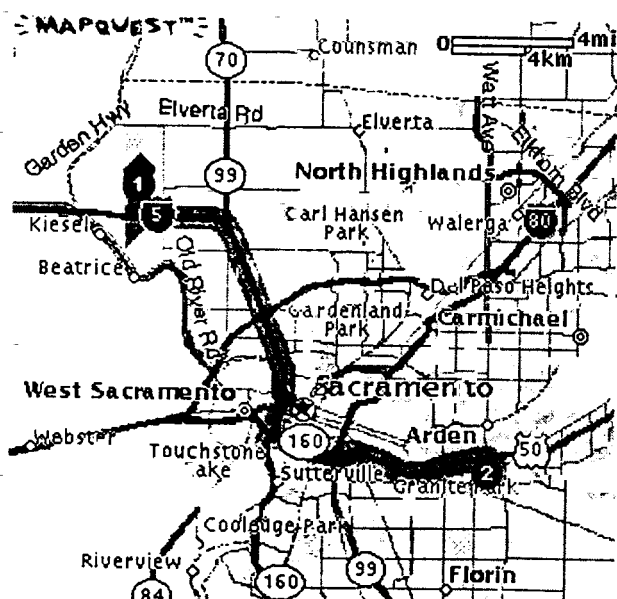
SMF 8745 Folsom Blvd.
 Sacramento, CA Sacramento, CA 95826-3712

20.9 miles 29 mins [Reverse Driving Directions](#)

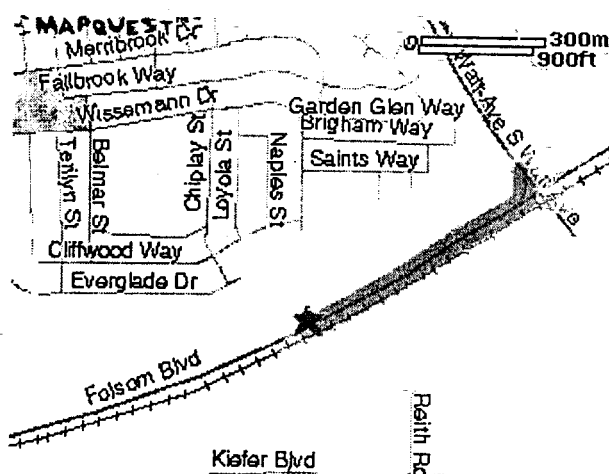
Directions

Miles

1. Start out going South on AIRPORT BLVD towards RETURN TO TERMINAL by turning right. 2.2
2. Take the I-5 SOUTH ramp towards SACRAMENTO/YUBA CITY 0.2
3. Merge onto I-5 S. 3.2
4. Take the I-5 SOUTH exit on the left. 0.2
5. Merge onto I-5 S/CA-99 S. 7.1
6. Take I-80 BR/US-50 E/CAPITAL CITY FRWY. 1.4
7. Stay straight to go onto US-50 E. 5.5
8. Take the WATT AVE exit. 0.1
9. Keep RIGHT at the fork in the ramp. 0.3
10. Merge onto WATT AVE. 0.3
11. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto FOLSOM BLVD. 0.3



Full Route



Destination